



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

2020 FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW (OCTOBER 2019 - SEPTEMBER 2020)

The [Cooperative Development Program](#) (CDP) is a global initiative that strengthens cooperative businesses and credit unions across multiple sectors throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The program partners with U.S.-based cooperatives and Cooperative Development Organizations (CDOs) for five-year activities.

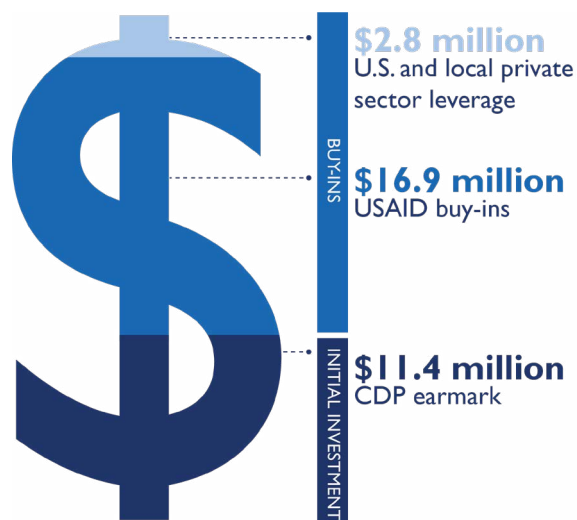
The purpose of the program is to foster sustainable cooperative systems that deliver value to cooperative members and their communities. This is accomplished by improving cooperative business performance, creating environments where cooperatives can thrive, and enhancing the development community's support to cooperatives.



WORLD COUNCIL OF CREDIT UNIONS

Promoting healthy behaviors: A hand washing station set up outside a local credit union in Kenya.

This report highlights the accomplishments of the program and its partners during Fiscal Year 2020.



RESOURCES LEVERAGED

The program leveraged more than \$31 million in funding for cooperative development worldwide, including the program investment and buy-ins from USAID and the U.S. and local private sector.



IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

With support for cooperatives and credit unions, the program advances sustainable development in countries around the world.



17 COUNTRIES

The program worked in 17 countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.



147 COOPERATIVES & CREDIT UNIONS

The program strengthened and built the capacity of over 147 local cooperatives and credit unions.



\$146 MILLION IN INCOME + SERVICES

Program-supported cooperatives and credit unions delivered income and services to members valued at \$146 million.



2 MILLION PEOPLE

More than 2 million people - cooperative members and their households - directly benefited from this program.



398+ ORGANIZATIONS

398 organizations adopted program-developed tools and resources to improve cooperative development globally.

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Cooperatives are a key aspect of resilience and we can only succeed if we support each other.

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- COOPERATIVE MEMBER,
PARAGUAY

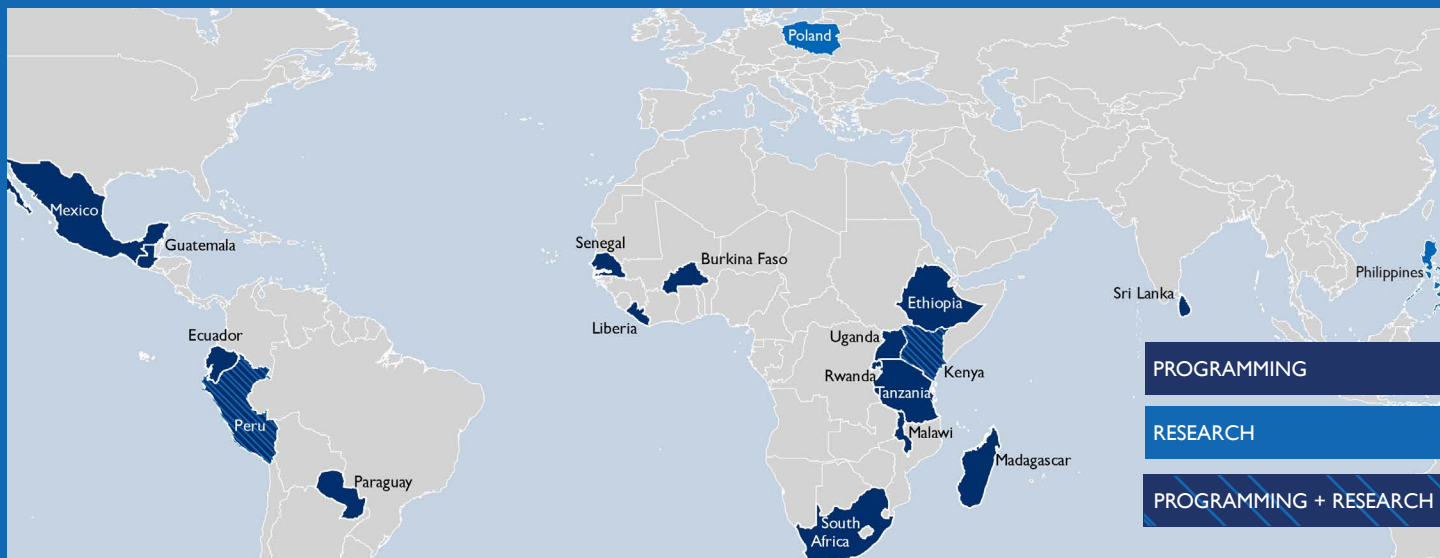


HEALTHPARTNERS

Cultivating health: Cooperative members in Uganda tend to their kitchen garden, which has helped them and their families avoid food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mapping the Cooperative Development Program (CDP)

The CDP implemented programs and conducted research in 19 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: COOPERATIVES AND COVID-19

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, cooperative businesses experienced unprecedented challenges, but in many ways they have also served as first responders within their own local communities. For these reasons, four Cooperative Development Program implementing partners came together to study the impact of COVID-19 on agricultural cooperatives. [Equal Exchange](#), [Global Communities](#), [NCBA CLUSA](#) and [Venture37](#) collected three months of data from 89 USAID-supported cooperatives in 8 countries to assess how they adapted to COVID-19.

The [research](#) found that 94% of cooperatives across 20 value chains were negatively affected by COVID-19. A majority of cooperatives cited government restrictions on activities, a slowdown in operations due to lack of mobility, and reduced revenue as their top three impacts.



“

Cooperatives have a high level of social capital, meaning that there is a high level of trust between the cooperative leaders and members. This has enabled cooperatives to become a reliable source of information, especially in more rural communities.

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- CDP IMPLEMENTING
PARTNER

EQUAL EXCHANGE

Concern for community: Cooperative members in Paraguay assembling food kits to be delivered to essential staff and the local community.

At the household level, cooperative members reported lower household income, delays in payments from the cooperative and difficulty acquiring personal protective equipment (PPE) as their main challenges.

Providing valuable member services and caring for the community are in the cooperative model's DNA. By the end of the research, 83% of cooperatives were actively sharing health and safety information with members, 40% were providing PPE, 28% were seeking external support in the form of grants or loans, and 38% were developing new operating procedures to maintain the safety of staff and members. With no other organizations able to support their members to the same extent, only 1% of cooperatives reported reduced membership as a result of COVID-19.

Looking ahead, the cooperatives indicated that their most urgently needed support includes: access to finance to cover revenue losses; business coaching to adapt strategies and operations; and access to technology to remain operational.

As evidenced by this research, while cooperatives have felt the impacts of COVID-19, they are able to withstand crises, adapt to changing conditions and respond to the evolving needs of their members and communities.

For additional research supported by the Cooperative Development Program, [click here](#).

Questions about the Cooperative Development Program?

For more information, please contact localsustainability@usaid.gov.